

Appln No. 09/722,174  
Amdt. Dated July 28, 2006  
Response to Final Office Action of June 15, 2006

9

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### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action, made final, dated June 15, 2006.

#### Finality of Office Action

The Applicant protests the finality of the Office Action. Claims 20, 41 and 45 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103(a) in view of WO99/50787, published on October 7, 1999.

However, the present application is entitled to a priority of May 25, 1999 via its parent application 09/575,197. Since the present application has a priority date which is earlier than the publication date of WO99/50787 (XEROX), it is submitted that XEROX is not prior art against the present application under 35 USC 102, and cannot therefore be cited as prior art under 35 USC 103.

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the rejection under 35 USC 103 is improper and the finality of the recent Office Action should be withdrawn.

#### Claim Amendments

The Applicant has introduced several clarifying amendments into the claims, and cancelled certain claims, in order to improve the overall clarity and conciseness of the claims set. Basis for these clarifying amendments can be found in the claims as originally filed.

Basis for the definition of tags in claim 1 can be found at page 18, lines 6-9 and page 19, lines 5-6.

Claim 41 and page 24, lines 19-23 provide basis for the nib feature in claim 1.

Corresponding amendments have been made to independent claim 29.

#### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

With the amendments to claim 1 and 29, it is submitted that these claims are not obvious in view of the disclosures of Perazza and Ogawa. Neither of these documents suggests generating indicating data regarding the position of a nib of a pen relative to a bill document. In Perazza, the bill document is scanned by a fax-type machine, which is incapable of determining a position of a pen nib relative to the document.

As regards the XEROX document, the Applicant submits that this document cannot be used against the present claims to allege obviousness for the reasons given above. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw his rejections in view of the XEROX document.

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10

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

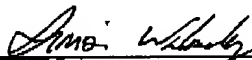
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